

# **MICHIGAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Michigan Transportation Research Board (MTRB) is a voluntary advisory body to Michigan's transportation agencies, led by the Michigan Department of Transportation, that will assist in identifying and prioritizing transportation research needs, interact with organizations that conduct and support research, and champion the value of research to improve Michigan's transportation system. The Board initiatives will support all efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of transportation services in Michigan through research. MTRB will promote an exchange of information, ideas, and knowledge benefiting transportation stakeholders through open discussions. The Board will help set broad direction for the annual research programs, and evaluate progress on an annual basis consistent with MDOT's and other agencies' business plans. This charter is a living document and will be revised as needed.

## **MISSION**

Promote active and effective research that will lead to the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life.

## **VISION**

Michigan's transportation research program will be a premiere program in the US having high visibility and producing innovative and effective solutions to practical problems. MTRB will develop and utilize all resources effectively and focus its research efforts to have broad impact on local, regional, and national issues.

## **GOALS**

The Michigan Transportation Research Board will pursue the following goals:

- Ensure the transportation community is proactive in research development, open to change and innovation, aggressive in implementation of research results, and supportive of training and continuing professional development of personnel.
- Include innovative and long-term research in the development of Michigan's transportation vision.
- Effectively leverage alternative funding sources.
- Clearly articulate the benefits of research results.
- Identify and create mechanisms that will make data and research findings understandable and accessible to end users in a timely manner.
- Foster a better awareness and visibility of existing research programs to the public. This should include educating the public about the importance of research so there is a corresponding political will at all levels to support research with adequate resources. Disseminate research outcomes widely.

- Promote evaluation of research results and support implementation.
- Foster research programs that integrate broad based stakeholder involvement and partnerships, including regional collaboration and coordination with other states.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Board will consist of an executive committee, which is responsible for administrating the policies and operation of the Board, and a broader based participation of all interested stakeholders. The executive committee will establish technical subcommittees as necessary to execute the objectives of the Board.

All members of the Board will be on a volunteer basis from the Transportation Stakeholder Groups and will be experts in fields relevant to the activities of the Board.

A membership solicitation will be sent out for participation in the Board, excluding the executive committee.

The executive committee will meet bi-annually and the Board as a whole will meet bi-annually. The members of the executive committee are expected to attend all meetings.

The executive committee will be appointed and limited to 16 members from the following stakeholder groups:

- MDOT – 3 representatives, including at least 1 from senior management (3)
- Universities – 1 from each of the identified universities (Michigan State, University of Michigan, Wayne State, Michigan Tech) (4)
- FHWA (1)
- Industry - consultants and contractors (2)
- Local governments – MML, MTA, and CRAM (3)
- Public transportation – MPTA (1)
- Regional planning – MAR, MPO (2)

At the discretion of the executive committee, invitations for at-large members may be extended to qualified volunteers.

Each entity will select representation. The executive committee will include a chair and vice chair. These officers will be appointed by the executive committee, with the consent of the MDOT director, for a two-year term with the possibility of renewal for a second term. The vice chair will succeed as chair and an election will be held each term for a vice chair. The chair and vice chair will be from different stakeholder groups.

The secretarial support staff will be provided by MDOT and will be responsible for coordinating meeting locations, times, etc.

## **VALUES**

The Michigan Transportation Research Board will adhere to the following set of values as it conducts its business:

- The Board acknowledges the values and principles of each represented organization and will work in a professional and collective manner to provide reasonable representation of all modes of transportation to meet the stakeholders needs.
- Will engage in regular and effective communication with customers and stakeholders through active listening and information sharing to build trust and awareness, and solicit feedback, to show that we care about their needs.
- Be focused on transportation research serving the stakeholders.
- Be honest, open, and fair.
- Use everybody's talents and work as a team to solve problems.
- Be information driven and not based on perceptions, rumor, or personal agendas.
- Will resolve conflicts by reaching consensus on how best to report the scope of opinions.
- Will treat each other with respect, listen to all ideas, and communicate openly and candidly.
- Will follow all state and federal statutes.
- The members of the Board and all associated attendees will work together irrespective of their personal or professional affiliations.
- Everything we do will have a value-added component.

## **OPERATIONS TO ACHIEVE GOALS**

The Michigan Transportation Research Board has established a broad set of operations to achieve stated and evolving goals. The Board will perform periodic self-evaluations to ensure it is meeting the research needs of the transportation community. The Board believes it is important to establish a formal process or mechanism for stakeholder input into a multimodal research program. This includes regular meetings with advocates of Michigan transportation research, MDOT senior management, and research managers. The Board will keep the transportation community informed of its activities and issues.

The Board will have a mechanism for input into the research program, which will assist in identifying needs and soliciting problem statements in specific research areas. The Board will encourage the seeking and leveraging of alternative funding sources, such as submittal of research ideas to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.

The Board will identify research partners/stakeholders, and establish a process for stakeholder input and will promote the coordination of research with other states and stakeholders. Research will have reporting requirements for program evaluation and accountability, which includes stakeholders, and the publication of an annual research accomplishment report. Individual research projects will be effectively managed with

individuals having the appropriate technical expertise with the ability to disseminate research findings including the deployment and evaluation of research results.

The Board will advocate the need for an appropriate level of research funding to meet the needs of the Michigan transportation community.

The Board will develop a formal mechanism to promote the implementation and evaluation of research results.

**NOTE**—A listing of the stakeholders under the categories of Research Sponsors, Scientific and Technical Experts, Users, and Affected Parties is provided below as an attachment to the charter.

## ATTACHMENT

### Michigan Transportation Research Board Stakeholders

#### Research Sponsors

(people who pay)

MDOT  
Local governments  
FHWA  
NCHRP  
TRB  
AASHTO  
Trade suppliers  
Regulators  
Legislatures  
NCTRP

#### Scientific and Technical Experts

MDOT  
Local governments (limited)  
Universities  
Trade suppliers  
Consultants

#### Users

(implement the research)

MDOT  
Local governments  
Maritime  
Aviation  
Railways

#### Affected Parties

(impact from the research, but  
do not pay for it)

Automotive industry  
Trucking industry  
Contractors  
Regulators  
EPA  
Michigan Bicyclist  
organizations  
Insurance industry  
Business and commerce